

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 TRSE-00
XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DOE-11 SOE-02
HA-05 NRC-07 DIWY-01 /126 W
-----115582 111022Z /10

R 110759Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2733
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH COMMUNISTS HOLD 25TH PARTY CONGRESS

REF: STOCKHOLM 0038 (NOTAL)

1. SWEDEN'S LEFT COMMUNIST PARTY (VPK), THE LARGEST ELEMENT OF THE NOW-FRACTURED COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IN SWEDEN, HELD ITS 25TH CONGRESS IN STOCKHOLM FROM JANUARY 4-8. THE CONGRESS UNANIMOUSLY REELECTED PARTY CHAIRMAN LARS WERNER, CONFIRMED THE MANDATES OF 34 MEMBERS OF THE NEW PARTY BOARD, AND APPROVED A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS AND DECLARATIONS ON SWEDEN'S ENERGY AND ECONOMIC SITUATION.

2. ADDRESSING THE OPENING SESSION OF THE CONGRESS, WERNER CALLED FOR A BROAD FRONT OF LEFT WING FORCES TO BATTLE FOR SUCH GOALS AS THE ADOPTION OF AN "OFFENSIVE" POSITION IN
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WAGE NEGOTIATIONS; A COMMON POSITION IN FIGHTING INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT AND FACTORY CLOSINGS; AND FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK. WERNER POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMUNISTS THEMSELVES WERE NOT SUFFICIENTLY STRONG ALONE TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS. THEY REQUIRED, HE SAID, UNITED EFFORTS OF THE "WORKERS MOVEMENT," WHICH WAS TO BE PUSHED NOW IN A LEFTWARD DIRECTION THROUGH VPK

INITIATIVES, AWAY FROM WHAT WERE SEEN AS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC POLICIES OF "CLASS COLLABORATION." IN THIS CONNECTION, FORMER PARTY LEADER C.H. HERMANSSON NOTED THE RECENT ATTEMPTS BY THE LO (SWEDISH CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS) TO BREAK THE "ECONOMIC OLIGARCHY" THROUGH ITS CAMPAIGN FOR THE MEIDNER-TYPE WAGE-EARNER FUNDS, AND EXPRESSED VPK SUPPORT FOR THE CAMPAIGN. HOWEVER, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WERE ALSO CRITICIZED FOR HAVING BETRAYED THEIR OWN PROGRAM IN THE PAST AND HAVING FALLEN PREY TO THE "BOURGEOIS" PARTIES.

3. THE CONGRESS DISCUSSED A PROGRAM CALLING FOR A CURTAILMENT OF INCREASES IN PRICES AND RENTS AS WELL AS FOR LAND AND CURRENCY SPECULATION, AND SEVEN-HOUR WORKDAY. THE PROGRAM WAS SENT ON TO THE CONGRESS' EDITORIAL COMMITTEE. IN THE FOREIGN POLICY FIELD, THE PARTY REAFFIRMED ITS "ANTI-IMPERIALIST" STANCE. IT CALLED FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA TO PUT AN END TO FIGHTING BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNIST STATES. IT ALSO HEARD SEVERAL PROPOSALS VOICED TO INCREASE STUDIES OF CONDITIONS IN SOVIET BLOC STATES. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO CRITICISM VOICED OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE USSR WITH THE EXCEPTION OF OBLIQUE REFERENCES TO VIOLATIONS OF DEMOCRACY DURING THE STALIN PERIOD. NO MENTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD OF OTHER BLOC NATIONS WAS MADE AT ALL.

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4. THE CONGRESS DECIDED THAT THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS "DEMOCRACY" PROGRAM WAS SO BADLY PLANNED THAT THE QUESTION OF THE PARTY'S STANCE ON DEMOCRACY SHOULD BE REFERRED BACK TO PARTY DISTRICTS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. THE FUTURE OF THE PARTY NEWSPAPER NY DAG WAS LEFT TO A NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN THE FALL, WHICH WILL TAKE UP THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE NEWSPAPER SHOULD BE PUBLISHED FIVE DAYS A WEEK INSTEAD OF THE CURRENT TWO. THE NEWSPAPER, WITH A CIRCULATION OF ABOUT 14,000, RUNS A DEFICIT OF ABOUT \$200,000 PER YEAR, DESPITE GOVERNMENT PRESS SUPPORT OF ABOUT \$140,000 PER YEAR.

5. IN ITS ENERGY PROGRAM, THE PARTY PROPOSED TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF NUCLEAR POWER IN SWEDEN BY 1990. SWEDEN WOULD LEAVE "THE OIL CLUB IEA," AND OIL COMPANIES AND POWER PRODUCTION WOULD BE PLACED IN THE HANDS OF THE STATE OR COOPERATIVES. NUCLEAR ENERGY IS TO BE DISMANTLED THROUGH SUCH MEASURES AS A STOP FOR ELECTRIC HEATING, THE CONSTRUCTION OF WIND POWER INSTALLATIONS CORRESPONDING IN CAPACITY TO TWO NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, THE CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNAL POWER PLANTS FUELED BY OIL, COAL, PEAT, GARBAGE, OR BIOMASSES, THE EXPANSION OF MINI-POWER PLANTS IN ALREADY BUILT-UP

STREAMS, AND A HIGHER TAX ON ELECTRICITY USE. VIRGIN RIVERS WOULD BE LEFT UNDEVELOPED. THE PARTY ALSO STANDS BEHIND THE DEMAND FOR A REFERENDUM ON NUCLEAR POWER. THE ENERGY PROGRAM WAS FORMULATED BY THE VPK'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE ROYAL ENERGY COMMISSION, PER KAGESSON.

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6. IN THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS FIELD, THE CONGRESS STRUCK DOWN A MOTION THAT WOULD HAVE CREATED A SEPARATE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION WITHIN THE VPK. THE PARTY BOARD WAS ENTRUSTED WITH THE TASK OF FORMULATING A PROGRAM ON WOMEN IN SOCIETY FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT CONGRESS IN 1981. IN THE POLICY STATEMENT ON WOMEN APPROVED BY THE PRESENT CONGRESS, IT WAS DECLARED THAT "WOMEN'S LIBERATION IS A GOAL FAR IN THE DISTANCE, WHICH CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY IN A DEVELOPED SOCIALIST SOCIETY." OF THE 272 REPRESENTATIVES SENT BY LOCAL PARTY ORGANIZATIONS, 89 ARE WOMEN, A MUCH HIGHER PERCENTAGE THAN THE TOTAL FEMALE MEMBERSHIP IN THE PARTY. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF WOMEN ON THE PARTY BOARD WAS INCREASED FROM 8 TO 10, CORRESPONDING ROUGHLY TO THE PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE PARTY MEMBERS. OF THE 322 LISTED PARTICIPANTS IN THE GATHERING, 206 ARE UNDER 40, 66 BETWEEN 20 AND 30, AND TWO UNDER 20. SOME 116 ARE OVER 40 AND THREE OVER 70.

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7. A NUMBER OF INVITED GUESTS WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM MOST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES (AT THE LEVEL OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, OR IN A FEW CASES, CANDIDATE MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDUM). OFFICIALS FROM ANGOLA, CUBA, NORTH KOREA, AND CHILE ALSO PARTICIPATED.

8. COMMENT AND FURTHER DETAIL OF PROGRAMS APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS FOLLOW IN SEPARATE AIRGRAM.
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